

Senator Eide's Week in Review

January 17-21, 2011

In the Spotlight: Washington State Budget

This year, legislators are faced with the difficult task of crafting the state budget for the 2011-13 biennium. In the last two years the Governor and the legislature have cut \$12 billion from the state budget—and this year it looks like we will have to cut \$5 billion more.

Last fall, Washington as a whole and specifically the 30th District overwhelmingly opposed tax increases. Two out of every three residents of the 30th District voted to repeal the candy and pop taxes and voted to require a two-thirds majority to close tax loopholes or increase revenue. Due to these restrictions, another all-cuts budget remains likely.

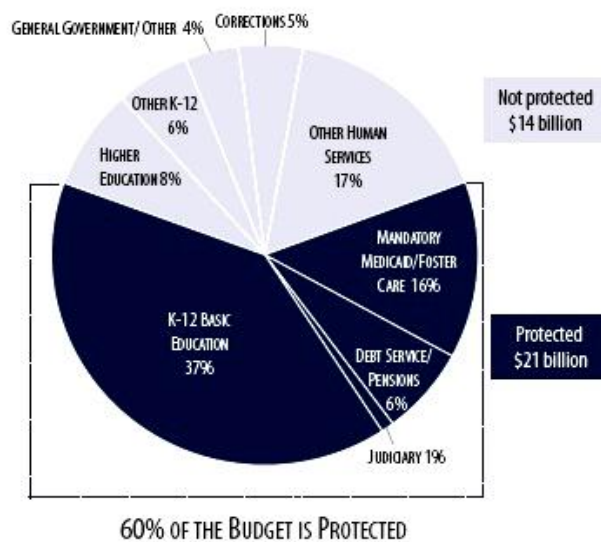
Of Washington's \$35 billion budget, 60% is protected by Constitutional or federal requirements. That means we have \$14 billion from which we must cut \$5 billion. This area is made up of human services such as health care and job training, corrections and prisons, higher education and various critical K-12 programs. Governor Chris Gregoire has already released her budget proposal and the Senate and House of Representatives are hard at work crafting their own versions. This will undoubtedly be a long and painful process for everyone; the Senate will release its budget in mid-March.

I am deeply concerned that vital and valued services will be cut. Many of these are public services that I took office to protect—like public education, public safety and health care. But, we are faced with a stark reality and have few options to choose from. As the coming weeks unfold, I will be sure to stay in constant communication to keep you updated on our progress.



MAJORITY OF \$35 BILLION BUDGET IS PROTECTED

TIED TO STATE CONSTITUTIONAL OR FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS



Office of Financial Management
December 2010

Early Learning and K-12 Education:

This week in the Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Randy Dorn, discussed K-12 education funding and steps that have been taken to improve early learning. The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) oversees student achievement in the over 2,200 schools in the State, delivers resources and assistance to school districts and ensures that teacher, principal and support staff standards are met. In addition, OSPI is working with the Department of Early Learning and Thrive by Five to make sure students enter kindergarten with necessary skills to succeed from pre-school to PhD.

Transportation:

This week the Transportation Committee got down to work. We met with various agencies and organizations to discuss upcoming projects that will support Washington's infrastructure. We also held a public hearing and executive session to pass [Senate Bill 5003](#) through our committee. This bill will add additional miles to our scenic highways. Our highways are a critical part of our tourism industry—their maintenance is necessary to keep our economy moving and so we can really appreciate the beauty Washington State has to offer. As the Transportation Committee continues to meet, I will always work with the 30th District's best interest in mind.

I also met with Covington City Council Member Wayne Snoey to discuss transportation issues for South King County. The South Sound Transportation Coalition and [South County Area Transportation Board](#) are working to build the South King County transportation infrastructure. Adequately completing the Triangle Project (I-5/SR 18/SR 161) is a major component to ensuring that people and freight can efficiently move through our region. I will continue to work with these organizations to protect and create jobs throughout our mobility system.

This Week's Visitors from the 30th District

If you are ever in Olympia and are from the 30th District, please visit my office: Legislative Building 305. I would love to see you!

- Sarah Ball; Public School Employees Association
- Jan Novak, Cherie Adams, Linda Adams, Don McCallum and Dick Barnard; Auto Licensing Subagents
- Dr. Art McIrvin, Melissa Dacumos and Daniel Volland
- Larry Jackson, Ted Jackson, Timothy Haslett and Patrick Vaughn; IBEW
- Francesco Ortenzo, Norma Ramirez, Bonnie Gillespie, Stephanie and Dan Haegele; Federal Way Public Schools Teachers
- Brandi Praytor-Marsters and students from the EX3 Teen Center
- Jennifer Kaiser
- Mike Krautkramer
- Erica Kinerk, Shawna Dobbins, Nhi Quach, Katie Ginther, Lora Kordyshevskiy, Sara Garland, Nancy Alleman, Riley Dahlstrom and Pat Brown; Dental Hygienists
- Rob Reggio, Josh Putnam and Mathew Waterfall; Farmer's Insurance Agency
- Bill Valdino
- John Lawson, ABATE
- Maria Diamond
- Ginny Leach, John Patterson, Tom and Dorothy Perry, George Krause, Linden Luckey, Bill Neubauer, Pat Cristelli and Ken Squire; Kloshe Illahee residents



Senator Eide with students from the EX3 Teen Center